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## Fair Play, Gentlemen.

As the Cabinet rumors develop into approximate certainties, it becomes apparent that President Arthur intends to do exactly what every man of common sense expected him to do. We have all along hoped that it would be the rankst folly for Mr. Arthur to attempt any sentimental experiments in deference to the maddish gush which attended the peculiar circumstances of his succession. An administration is a practical fact, not a sentimental whim. A President is a responsible agent under the Constitution. In his own person, not an executor upon the estate of any person deceased. Among the duties devolving upon a President is that of selecting seven eminent gentlemen to administer, under his authority and in his responsibility, the immediate business of the seven great subdivisions of the Executive branch of the Government. For the character of these selections the President is alone personally responsible. So absolute is the President's personal responsibility in these premises that the Senate, by virtue of custom amounting to law, abdicates its joint prerogative of "advising and consenting" with respect to Cabinet appointments and confirms them *pro forma* without debate or question.

Under such circumstances it is natural that a President should desire to have about him a Cabinet of his friends, his confidants and his allies. He must make his selections from the circle of his acquaintance, public or private. He cannot take the chances of making new acquaintances at the Cabinet table. The experiment has been tried occasionally, but always with disastrous and humiliating consequences. When Mr. Arthur succeeded to the Presidency he found his predecessor's Cabinet an ill-assorted jumble of discords and dislikes. The Attorney-General held the Secretary of State, had exhausted his malign ingenuity in covert assaults upon him very nearly from the beginning of the Administration. The antagonism between these two had bred a war of faction in the Cabinet itself, which could not much longer have been restrained from open rupture, even had Garfield lived.

There were other issues in the Cabinet of less note than this one. In fine, as was pitifully remarked by Hon. William E. Chandler, when asked whether he thought Arthur ought to perpetuate Garfield's Cabinet as he found it: "If Arthur should do so, he would be doing what Garfield himself could not have done."

Under these circumstances alone, and without taking any account of the new President's undisputed prerogative, a new Cabinet was a necessity from the first. It is now pretty well known that Mr. Arthur's primary desire was to make a Cabinet of "All the Talents"—a sort of Cockburn ministry, so to speak—in which the reconciled and placated heads of factions all should sit in harmony and accord at a reputedly council-table. This was the natural instinct of an accomplished party manager like Arthur. But, the scheme for some reason fell through. The design to hold Mr. Blaine at the head of the State Department, while Mr. Conkling should be fetched into the Treasury, with the son of Abe Lincoln in the War Department, and so on to correspond, was a grand design. But men of the stature of Blaine and Conkling do not bow to emergencies with the facility required for such a programme, and the result was that the very grandeur of Arthur's scheme made it Utopian.

Senator Jones, who undertook to bring Conkling to Blaine, and the Hon. Bill Chandler, who undertook to bring Blaine to Conkling, both reported progress, but not consummation. Conkling was willing and so was Blaine; but they were not both willing at the same moment or in the same way.

The philosophy of all this is that the two men, as representatives of two great factions, are too large to dwell comfortably together under the roof-tree of an Administration. They can stay in the party and work together for its general success, but that is all. And Arthur soon found this out. Thus, despairing of harmony in the grand plan first suggested, Mr. Arthur naturally fell back upon the resources afforded by his own faction—or rather the faction with which his past career had been most intimately identified. It is from this faction that the new Cabinet will substantially be chosen. But it would not be fair to say that, because Mr. Arthur finds himself compelled to choose a Cabinet from the ranks of the faction which sustained Grant at Chicago, therefore his Administration has been granted. On the contrary, it should be viewed as the alternative adopted by Mr. Arthur himself, for his own purposes and on his own responsibility, as the best he could do under the circumstances.

We are not imprecating with the theory that all this means Grant again in 1884. Our impression is that, so far as it has any reference to 1884, this programme means Arthur himself; if so, let him be fairly judged by his own works and not by the theories of his adversaries. Mr. Blaine, in his famous letter accepting the State portfolio from Garfield, set the fashion of re-nominating Presidents early in the action. No one can blame Mr. Arthur if he adopts the precedent so gracefully set by Mr. Blaine. The Stewart faction does not live or die in the name of Grant. The fact that its leaders have supported Grant for a Third Term, does not disqualify them from supporting Arthur for a second.

His Majesty JA JA, an African potentate, is a convert to the system of English free trade, and therefore, when the Qua Ebo tribe objected to do business with him, he went in and massacred them.

It is said on the European continent that the Russians are the greatest travelers, the Dutch ranking next, the French being very rarely found outside the limits of their own country.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL JAMES recently appointed an inexperienced man to an \$1,800 clerkship over the heads of old and tried clerks, and that, too, after the man had failed to pass the civil-service examination prescribed by James' own rules. It is said on the best authority that out of ten easy words given him to spell he missed nine. As soon as the result of this man's examination became known, the chief clerk of the Department informed the examiner that the man must be appointed anyhow, as he was a pet of James, and his record of examination had to be arbitrarily "marked up" in order to conform to the regulations. The name of this fortunate person is Ashby, and he is said to have had something to do with a small country paper in Northern New York.

Of course we do not offer any criticism. James has been canonized by the press as a Reformer and, in consequence, has unlimited indulgence to commit perjury, practice favoritism or nepotism and ignore his own civil-service rules whenever it suits his convenience.

From the pitiful tales of foot-sore pilgrims returned from Yorktown we learn that Cornwallis was a big fool for not surrendering the place on sight. Its population consists of a few oyster shells and a big hill of sand, with a rum shop in the distance to add the picturesque to the scene. It is told in harrowing language that the dust is about six inches thick; that meals are correspondingly thin and bad, and that drinking-water is a myth. Under these circumstances it is possible that the grand mixed jubilee chorus now performing on that hallowed spot will look upon "Home, Sweet Home" as the most popular ballad in our language. People will submit to a great deal of dust and poor whisky for the sake of founding a country and a home for themselves, but it loses a great deal of its romance when you have to stand an encore.

To RE "O. K." in Austria everything must be plentifully labeled with K. K. These mystic letters signify Kaiserliche, Koenigliche-Imperial, Royal—expressing the historic fact that the Emperor is Kaiser in Austria, but only King in Hungary. As a matter of typographic taste the printers do not admire a superabundance of these significant initials, and consequently a Viennese journal has been informed by the Government censor that they are omitted too frequently in its columns.

STUDENTS learned in heraldry declare that the national color of Ireland is not green and never was green, being now and ever sky blue. It seems to be only a Celtic blunder, for the green belongs of right to Scotland, where it is the tint of the ribbon of the Order of the Thistle. The Order of St. Patrick carries a sky blue ribbon, and the same color appeared on the banners of the old Irish kings. When and how the green came in and the middle began, the authorities do not state.

AS A NEW NOTION for the use of Sunday-schools, an old gentleman in New England has bequeathed \$3,500 a year to each boy and girl who attends regularly the Sunday service and the Sunday-school of a certain Unitarian Church. The money is to be deposited in a savings bank to produce a fund which is to be given to the girl when she reaches twenty-one and to the boy when he is twenty-five years of age.

SINCE THE WORD UNIVERSAL has been seized upon by the patent medicines there is much need of a more dignified substitute. Economical exactly meets the requirements, and although its scholarly initial diphthong has been ruled out for the convenience of the public, it still retains a sufficiently clerical appearance suited to the most imposing occasions.

A POLYGLOT REPERT and feast of tongues was given by a Viennese newspaper editor to the literary congress. There was a dinner, of course, but it was garnished by speeches from the contributors of the journal in Spanish, French, Italian, English, Latin, Greek, Swedish and Polish just to make the guests feel at home.

ACCORDING TO THE Atlanta Constitution the first man to hook on to the new administration was Greenbay Raum. Around Washington Greenbay is known as the old-man with the sticking-plaster. Cranks may come and cranks may go, but Greenbay Raum holds on forever.

THE RICHMOND Dispatch announces that Gen. Jubal Early is not yet 65 and is a bachelor. We thought the General a married man of nearly 80. Our offensive remarks are withdrawn.

The aesthetic culmination has been reached. Mr. Whistler is to paint Mrs. Langtry as a symphony, or something.

IT IS PLEASANT to learn that the Nebraska Democrats have met in convention. Covers were set for seventeen.

Meeting of Extremes.  
In a recently published story the fat woman of the side-show of a circus is represented as the wife of an Indian of the same exhibition. Many people, no doubt, regarded this as a fictional exaggeration, but we learn from the New York Sun that there is actually such a union. It is a notorious fact that incidents in novels which are directly borrowed from nature are often set down as improbable than those which owe their origin entirely to the imagination.

New England With Us.  
The New York Commercial Advertiser says: "The greatest living calculator is the gas-meter man. He can tell to a fraction how much gas a family ought to use without looking at the indicator." Yes, and what is more wonderful, he can bring in a large bill for gas consumed during the summer, notwithstanding the fact that the house has been closed the entire season.

The Indian Question.  
The Indian and War Departments are very much exercised just now over what they call the "Indian question." We've seen a heap of redskins in our time, but the only Indian question ever heard was: "White man got whiskey?—Indian dry?"

A Point to be Settled.  
"You are now only said the minister to the happy pair he had just joined together in a knot they could never undo. "Which one?" asked the bride. "You will have to settle for yourselves," said the clergyman.

Dispensed With Preliminaries.  
Adam's life in the garden of Eden, even before the Fall, was not all sunshine. He never had an opportunity to do any court-ing.

Two of a Kind.  
Capt. Bayley returned from Patagonia, where he was shipwrecked and nearly eaten by cannibals, only to be robbed by a highwayman at the White Mountains. He now asks if civilization is a failure.

Screening the Law.  
Timblethorpe went into a sample-room the other day to inspect pieces of lemon-juice, and just as he was about to take it swimming on the top of a rose-colored liquid, he observed a neighbor, Deacon Dobbs, peering through the window. He had his umbrella with him, and quick as thought he put it up and under its protective shade peeped at the shifty of the tropical fruit. Coming out of the door, a few minutes later, he encountered Deacon Dobbs, who said: "Good morning, Brother Timblethorpe; I am sorry to see you coming out of such a place."

"Made a mistake," answered Timblethorpe, unblushingly; "I thought it was an umbrella store, and did not discover I was wrong until I found myself in the den of iniquity."

The Deacon went on his way, apparently satisfied, and the other man, with a resolution to carry an umbrella like his British cousins, min or shine, said to himself, within himself: "There is more than one way to get round the screen law."

The Sense of Feeling.  
"Lay off your overcoat or you won't feel it when you go out," said the landlord of a Western inn to a guest who was sitting by the fire. "This what I'm afraid of," returned the man. "The last time I was here I laid off my overcoat, I didn't feel it when I went out, and I haven't felt it since."

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